Informant:	**LMP-S1**	**Spanish**
Date:	**09-08-01**	**Mini DV**
Interviewers:	**Claudia Hernandez, Michael Jones, P. Polk**	
Transcriber:	**Josué Domínguez**	

microphones are too close (especially on S1)

CH: Who is this?

S1: He's the head guy. He's the guy you have to talk to.

CH: …it says you may not be aware of ??? on public property, that the person who signs on public property or upon private property without the ??? of permission of property owner is a violation…well maybe that's how they got that….

S1: I don't know what it's called.

CH: This building…you ???, when you crossed that wall out there, did you have permission from the owner?

S1: I'm like the owner here…why?

CH: Because it's says if one puts any advertising pictures it is considered illegal without the permission of the owner, or if it is done on public property.

S1: No, because the city governs outside, not in here.

CH: Yes but….

S1: Anyhow this local has this way farther inside than the rest.

CH: But if this building has a different owner and ….

S1: Yes, but Pedro is my friend.

CH: But you have to have permission to put that here.

S1: Yes, ???? I'm not doing anything here.

CH: Let me see what else it says…

S1: I am going to collect signatures because many people are angry that they took down the saints.

P: The same thing with the muffler sculptures.

CH: Why do they do that? Keeping LA beautiful?

P: It's just…???…when you go to East LA and you can see when you change from one city to another, the murals disappear and it's just a different city where they don't have murals…

S1: What did he say?

CH: That the city is just like that, if they don't want murals on the walls then they make these laws.

S1: They make the laws…but look two days ago we were painting ???? and gang member letters, that's what the city wants…there where I live, gang members paint, here…???

CH: He says, they don't want a mural but it's not going to look any better with graffiti.

P: The main thing is that you need to have the city permit, you have to have permission to have it there…

S1: ???? we ?????

CH: He says they don't ??? from it, that they've even hired a lawyer and they don't give them a permit….

S1: they say that they are those that go around doing this…

CH: Who?

S1: ??? that work in that.

CH: We work in the university

S1: Yes, ????????.

CH: Folklore and Cultural Studies

S1: that's them.

CH: No it's not.

S1: Yes it's them, they are the one that say they don't want….

CH: How could it be us?

S1: Ask him?

CH: It's not, we don't have the authority.

S1: They are a group like you, they ask that they don't want it.

CH: The group that you referring to, is the group of Cultural Affairs.

S1: No, I've seen that, that is not it.

CH: He insists that it is us, our groups, our ???

S1: It's group of yours, tell him, ???

CH: No it's not.

S1: I've already told him that 'why'? and he said that that's the way they wanted it.

CH: It's the Cultural Affairs group.

S1: What's that?

CH: It's a group of culture, a group that says what gets painted and not, when someone wants to paint a mural the are the ones that decide on the subject matter, whether it be too political, racist etc. They are the ones that decide, not University professors and not University people, we have nothing to do with that.

S1: He told me that it was those people.

CH: The Department of Culture, the cultural department of Los Angeles, not the department of….

S1: LOOK…if you go up by Manchester the drawings are in pieces.

CH: I know.

MICROPHONE TOO CLOSE (voices sound muffled especially S1)

S1: I'm going to talk, ??????????????????

CH: Try to see….

S1: They don't give it. It's a law that just came out. ????, they don't allow it, so ???

CH: We wanted to ask some questions in regards to…questions we've asked…

J: We've been working on the book, going through transcripts and interviews and there are number of questions and information we need to ask where information is not really complete.

S1: What?

CH: We've started the book and there is information that is incomplete, that when saw the video we had more questions and we want to get more information, more detail, so we are going to ask you some questions….So I'm going to start with his family.

J: Yes, brothers and sisters and what his mother died of, religion…

CH: I'm going to start with question about your family and of you and your story, to start with brothers and sisters, how many do you have?

S1: I don't have any, one brother, and she died.

CH: When did he die?

S1: ????

CH: 70's…was he older or younger?

S1: Younger, ??? about 5 years old.

CH: And you?

S1: I'm 42

CH: When is your birthday?

S1: April 8th

CH: what year?

S1: '59

P: Sisters name?

S1: M. XXXXXX

CH: And she worked with spiritual things as well?

S1: NO.

CH: And your brother that died, what was his name?

S1: R. XXXXXXXX

CH: And did he work with this?

S1: No, he was really small.

CH: And your father…oh, during the earthquake he died right?

S1: Yes.

CH: What happened exactly? His room tumbled down on him right?

S1: It fell completely, the house had for corridors and one of the awnings fell on him and he died.

CH: awning? That's like a piece of wood right?

S1: Yes, long one, and hard. And my father ????.

CH: Your father was there too?

S1: He was there next to my brother, because my mother died when he was born…see, my mom had me and then my sister and then someone, they say, did witchcraft on her, and she fell ?????????. And so when I was around 4 or 5 years old, when my mother had my brother and so when he was born my mother died after he was born. She died from birth they say.

CH: you believe it was witchcraft?

S1: Yes…it was. Then my brother was born like a cat that is twisted-up, like that, he was all bone he had almost no meat on him, he had no teeth or hair either or nails.

CH: That's how kids are born.

S1: Yes, but they never developed…kids are born with nails and he had none. He had no hair and he was all twisted up like a dog, like those ??? that come out…the one that don't have anything to eat. And he died….until the age of 5 he straightened up and he began to walk, a grandma' of mine cured him with cow's milk, to a cow they made him ???, the cow was his mother. And so ???….

CH: UH…oh sorry.

S1: When he had grown, around 10 years old he died in the earthquake, because he was not with my father.

CH: When you say that they made him do what with the cow?

S1: They would milk the cow and give it to him, they put ??? on the cow, ????, because it was ?????? and to him.

CH: OK and so your brother was 10 when he died?

S1: Well more like 7, my mother died of about 24 years old.

CH: After having your brother?

S1: The same day he was born.

CH: And after your mother died, what happened to you and your brother?

S1: We, my sister and brother, we went to my grandmothers, mother of my mother, my father doesn't have a mother or father they all died, so I would make my father tortillas I would ??????????. I would cut wood, one day I burned my entire face.

CH: How?

S1: Because I took out the corn and since it has 'lime{not the fruit, but the mineral}'(cal) it was burning hot and it squirted up and fell on my face.

CH: How did they cure you?

S1: With ???

CH: The mud of the very same corn?

S1: Yes, because over there ??? a thing like this.

CH: Right.

S1: The water goes out that way, so you get mud and that mud is what I put on here.

CH: To cure yourself?

S1: Yes, ????

CH: It's like refreshing

S1: ????

CH: how long did you have to put that mud on you?

S1: I don't remember, about maybe a month

ANIMAL IN THE BACKGROUND MAKING HORRIBLE NOISE

CH: And you were left with no scar?

S1: No…also for that type of thing it would be ??? it's famous and the doctors they ???? for people not to get ruined ??? that they get bathed in tomato right away.

CH: Did they do anything else for you?

S1: Yes tomato.

CH: bathed?

S1: Yes, I've been with people that have been burned and you bathe them quickly with the mud or tomato and it wont boil up.

CH: But you only had…

S1: Tomato too.

CH: Together?

S1: First mud then tomato

CH: For about a month?

S1: Yes

CH: Your father did this?

S1: Yes

CH: And so….

S1: SHUT THAT BIRD UP, please.

CH: So from the age of 6 you began to work with things around the house.

S1: I began to work at around 6…4 years.

CH: And so your father, you told us a bit of your father and some of your other relatives that were evangelists.

S1: They are evangelists.

CH: Your father still alive?

S1: Yes, the are all evangelists

CH: And so your father was evangelist…

S1: He doesn't accept that…but he doesn't care either.

CH: When you began to work with what you do….

S1: I began to work in the capital, I was about 10 years old, I left my home at a very young age. I left because my father would hit me too much and all alone I was there and I would ask people where to live.

CH: Family?

S1: No, people on the street I didn't know.

CH: Before that did your father ever teach you his religion, evangelism?

S1: No, he never believed in that.

CH: He never tried teaching you?

S1: No, ??? because ???….??? almost never…except about three years, from then on never more, I never believed in the evangelical, never!

CH: When did you begin to practice?

S1: I did not practice I fell in…I didn't practice, I don't know how to practice, I don't even know how to read.

CH: So, when did you fall into this?

S1: I already knew various little things, but people take things as a joke you know, when I went from where I am to my town…

CH: Where are you from?

S1: I'm from Samaya (sp.??), from there I went to Antigua and from there I went to a place called El YYYY, a restaurant, to wash dishes…after that…

CH: 10 years old?

S1: 7 or 10, I worked at El YYYYY as a helper waiter and I would clean, after there I went to Chimaltenango, with some men that were butchers, and I already new things by then, after with a man named ???, he was butcher of cows, I would go with the cows and angry cows and when I started it was when we went to the coast to get cows and the volcano blew and we were halfway in the river when the…what do you call it passed by…

CH: Lava?

S1: I had already told them it would cross our path, I was small and they throw me on this and they lowered me with some vines, cables, because ??? stayed with all the cows on the river…the river is called Pantaleon, that river is behind San Pedro de Pocapa (sp.??) it's an enchanted farm.

CH: What is it called again?

S1: Pantaleon…they call it El ??? also….and there you find the rock Miranbia (sp??) that is also an enchantment…there are many types of fruits there, some day when I have papers (documentation) I'll go with them and take you to there, they say you eat the fruits in that area but if you bring one out you can never leave that place…there are cows and all type of animals, like a safari, but you cant touch them only look at them, they are like dream, like a fantasy but you can ????, of everything you want, you can eat but you cant take out, if you take one you stay in.

CH: From El Penon? And that is the farm?

S1: Yes, they are farms belonging to millionaires, there many white people go to investigate things…also that day they had to ??? with a dog, they put wires like this and they crossed over like this and they crossed me over because I was small, because the water would jump onto the truck and ??? rocks, Big rocks that had with them sticks and everything, like lava and then I began to work and I was there ???? and Chimaltenango (sp.??) and there I met San Simon and I went back to Antigua again, I was looking for a job…

CH: What was the name of that man?

S1: Don Tono de Mata and Donya Conchita…they had pigs and cows and they killed lots of cows.

CH: And they were the same of the restaurant?

S1: No, that's different.

CH: They were the owners of the El XXXXX Restaurant?

S1: No

CH: How did you meet them?

S1: Asking around.

CH: And they were famous for being the people…

S1: No, they were just rich so you ask them for work…and they would give me work but they would never pay me…they would give me food. And when I was able to get a passage I went to Antigua, Guatemala, the capital it is about an hour away, I ??? the pick-up, like without knowing where I was going.

CH: How long where you there with them over there?

S1: I don't remember, I grew up there, working…and so in the Capital ??? a man named Don Hector Batres, they are from Santa Rosa de Chiquimulas…

CH: Huh?

S1: Barbarena Santa Rosa

CH: Ok

S1: Jukio Santa Rosa Elena…uh..that's where they're from but they live in the Capital.

CH: Wait who lives in the Capital?

S1: Don H B and Doña R….they had a lot money they owned bars and restaurants…bars of women, restaurants and cafeterias and hotels and I went to work with them…?????

Tropical and Las Jemelas, the hotel ??? was also theirs and the Izalco Hotel was theirs. And I stayed with them, I was like his little puppy, since he did not have any kids, ??? Doña R…???

CH: Did you meet San Simon through them?

S1: Yes, I met San Simon, and I knew how to do things so many people would come and she told me ???? and ???? the bar, I put some red lights and some flowers to San Simon and San Simon like this, and they took it away from there, but I was already 20 years old.

CH: Who took it away?

S1: ???

CH: Oh yeah?

S1: He thought he was the one with luck, because ??????

CH: And you where the one that put San Simon there?

S1: Yes, he was a strong believer in San Simon, every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday he was with San Simon, every day he would leave him liquor and flowers, but I would go with him every day. But I didn't concentrate myself there I did that when I was 22 in a place called Los Planes Zacatenango(sp.??)…

CH: But before that from the age of 7 and 10 years old…

S1: I already knew…

CH: How did you learn these things? Was there someone?

S1: No one.

CH: Could you give me an example of the things you knew?

S1: I knew how to arrange candles for business and how to…many things and how to cause harm, so that someone might die.

CH: So you would do that type of project when you were around 7 or 10 years old?

S1: Yes, I could do that by then

CH: So, when you went to live with H and R, when you lived with them…

S1: Sometimes I had ideas but after sometime ????

CH: How old were you where you were with them?

S1: About 10 or 11

CH: How old do you think…

S1: The ??????????????????????????????….??? from 10 to 22 years of age, until I got married

CH: And when you were 22 you began to concentrate…

S1: I began to work! I married a woman of 14 years of age and I was 22 and the girl was 13 years of age, my kids mother, so when we got married after some time we began to work, when my oldest son was born, many bad spirits would come down on me.

CH: What's your oldest son's name?

S1: E…and so for the time many things happened to me, because in that time I had bars and restaurants, I was of money.

CH: Before being 22 years of age and marrying your wife?

S1: I was 18, I was younger.

CH: Tell me about your age of 10 years old.

S1: My age was like his age he has now, they had a lot of money in that time.

CH: Since you where living with R and H?

S1: Yes, they gave me a business and from those I made more and so on.

CH: Did they give you a hotel or a bar?

S1: Bar

CH: Do you remember the name?

S1: Yes, it's called, T (sp.??)

CH: You named it?

S1: Yes

CH: Why that name?

S1: Because I liked that name.

CH: Like the Peruvian?

S1: No, I just liked the name, I didn't know about that….And I had one that was called Disco Bar.

CH: Disco Bar?

S1: Yes…

CH: You were the owner?

S1: Yes, and then when I got married I did not want ??? there, so I ??? every week to my home. So I would manage about 20 women that worked for me.

CH: the women that worked for you were…?

S1: They danced and drank.

CH: And this was in the Capital of Guatemala?

S1: Yes, in the Cuate?? District, by the terminal…of death they call it there because many people die there…because there are bars everywhere there.

CH: What is called?

S1: They call it 'street of death'…just one street in the capital.

CH: When you got married where did you live?

S1: With my in-laws…I got married but I went to live with them, I went to their house.

CH: What part of Guatemala?

S1: I got married in a place called 'Aldea de los Planes Zacatenango' (sp.??)

CH: And you live there?

S1: I lived there all the time, there I have a pig farm, we didn't have where to live so we lived in other people's homes, for seven years.

CH: You and your wife?

S1: Yes

CH: But didn't you just tell me you went to live with her parents?

S1: Yes, but we were not there long because we fought, because I was in their crowded with them in their home and my father-in-law ??? they believed a lot in witchcraft (brujeria), they wasted there entire plot of land and when they did, I went to ask with other people…I had some money but soon they killed one of my women in the bars and it was over…no more money…and that's when the spirits began to come down on me

CH: The women where the type that dance…

S1: They drink!

TAPE BECOMES WARPED

CH: Men give them to dance or prostitutes?

S1: They're like prostitutes…in Guatemala, El Salvador ???? they call them bars but they are prostitutes and so from there we asked for somewhere to live…???? And fixing the house ???????? ??????
I remember that the stove and the pots would always break…

CH: This is when these…these…spirituality began descending on you?

S1: Yes, I had an idea but it was stronger and they would come down and they would insult you and they would want to choke you, my wife was afraid and she would go out running and she would run to Aunt V and she, that is not good with spirits, she would speak to them forcefully and go at it with them.

CH: Your aunt?

S1: Yes, V F. . . . she was a witch, she would become an owl and go eat bones of the dead.

CH: So, tell me of time when this situation…when it first began coming down on you.

S1: When I was 22 years old.

CH: Was your first son born by then or not?

S1: Yes, when he was born I had lots and lots of money…but when he was born they killed three women in the business and the woman was to die and she ???, ????

CH: Your wife almost died giving birth to him?

S1: Yes, 13 years old, she had her first child. ??? and after that we didn't even have enough for food….

CH: When they killed the women?

S1: yes, and they closed down the businesses and /??

CH: And then since you did not get along with your in-laws…

S1: They were just to brothers and I'm ??? brothers also, J and B

CH: Your wife is B?

S1: yes. And Jorge my in-law and ??? ???? but that lady was very mean…before she used to like me a lot when I was her daughter's boyfriend and when the husband liked me she

no longer did…???/ take away women…from there we moved to a place called Chate (sp.??) in Peteng.

CH: In Guatemala still?

S1: Yes, by Belize, far.

CH: So you were not in Guatemala?

S1: No, because they were hiding me from the fact that they wanted to take my wife away and in ??? the witches (brujos)…

CH: You were hiding her?

S1: They had taken her away from me…

CH: Oh…

S1: Her and my oldest son\

CH: But tell me more about your experience when the spirits came down on you.

S1: No, I never ?????????

CH: But explain to me this concentration, how was it?

S1: they came down all of a sudden and they would trap me and tell me things or…

CH: Spirits?

S1: ????, but crazy not good.

CH: So, you were having a normal conversation at home and…

S1: And it would fall and that was it…

CH: All of a sudden you would just go into a trance?

S1: Yes, I remember I had a portrait of San Judas ???, I already believed…

CH: You believed in San Simon and all that by this time right? Because when you were small you made that room for San Simon, the one Don H did not allow you to take?

S1: Yes.

CH: So you only had a photo of San Judas?

S1: Yes.

CH: And you don't remember what spirits would come down on you?

S1: No, I don't remember, they were bad spirits.

CH: And that would happen…?

S1: It would happen every so often and my spouse wanted to leave, she said I was the devil…

CH: And that was cause for the mother to say…

S1: No, just that my wife was too young and she was afraid that adults might hit them.

CH: When you were in that trance?

S1: UH huh…??? U J and his wife, they would go see what was happening.

CH: He was a brujo?

S1: No, an evangelist.

CH: Was he a friend?

S1: A 'compadre'

CH: Because he was the god-father of your son?

S1: I was his son's god-father, but from when they were Catholics, they changed to evangelism.

CH: And so they went to see what was happening and how you were?

S1: Yes, they lived there, in the house of an uncle of mine named R….in the back lived a lady named ???? that was B's mother, and on the top lived my aunt, V, the witch (bruja).

CH: And so V would come down to help you guys?

S1: She, V, his aunt…his mother would laugh…V was the name of both of them…one was V J the other V F.

CH: V J was whose mother?

S1: B's

CH: U J, your 'compadre'?

S1: Yes.

CH: And V F?

S1: My aunt

CH: And she would come to…?

S1: She was involved in many things like that, she was always into all the spirit things, the two V.

CH: Both?

S1: Yes.

CH: they are the ones that taught you how to control these episodes?

S1: No, nothing…just all of a sudden it went away, and when it did, I knew a lot of things.

CH: After the trances you had more knowledge?

S1: Yes, in Chate (sp.??) and in Chate we were there for about two months but over there, there weren't any healers (curadora) there were ???, ?????????? a very well known healer (curadora) kicked me out. And I decided we should leave.

CH: How long were you there?

S1: About three months…we ate sweet fish…when it rains a lot the water accumulates in pools and in there fish are born, you can collect them…they were sweet like if they had honey…and from there we went to a place they call Parcheros (sp.??) and I already new my father-in-law wanted to do something to me…I had gone to a place called ???, and Parchero was a guy that guarded there and he gave one day, hot chocolate with some French bread and very weird that my in law gave me this and my wife said don't drink any of that because that's how she wants you to lose all that you know. She told me not to eat anything…that night we went to sleep and we went out in the morning and a pig ??? my children.

CH: Weird. In the morning or night?

S1: Over there, there are lots of animals, people go around with animals.

CH: How were you going to take that pig?

S1: Small, and the pigs…???

CH: You where ??? your son?

S1: No we where near and they entered there.

CH: And at this time…the name of this place and man was Pachero?

S1: It was called ‘Flores Peteng’

CH: That’s where you met Pachero?

S1: Yes.

CH: But before that place…

S1: There, there are many…

CH: …where you were close to Belize, what is that place called?

S1: They call it ‘Las Cruces’

CH: And that’s where….

S1: The border between Guatemala and Belize

CH: And where they tried to take your wife back, her parents?

S1: yes, but we came down at night, at 2 am we left for the capital…

CH: And so they took her away from you?

S1: Yes, for some time but I brought her…they took her from me for about 6 months, but I went back in secret and I took her back.

CH: Where were you when they took your children?

S1: My son stayed in Peten and we came back, with the other small one, in a truck of corn.

CH: And then you got your kid back?

S1: About 2 months later I got some money and I went to get him.

CH: So when you began…when did you begin to learn about San Simon?

S1: when I was 7 years old.

CH: How did you begin to gain your knowledge? By way of dreams or by….

S1: No, just by things like that…that I knew.

CH: It just came to you?

S1: I would let people know that I healed and that was that.

CH: What type of healing did you do at that time?

S1: I can cure any sickness….except that over there you don't use 'oils' (aceites)

CH: But in that time what type of things would you do so that people could say, look S1 is knowledgeable?

S1: I would cure a lot of sick people, over there people go to witches (brujos) not for lovers or anything like that but for sicknesses, maybe you need to ask for ??? your grandma, your mother, bad things like that. I cured with Chickens, birds, with things…

CH: Since 7 years old?

S1: Yes.

CH: And at that age where you still with your father or no?

S1: I left for a long time…from there I left to the Capital and to many places, but I didn't know many people and some other people began to know me.

CH: So everywhere you went you always…

S1: I always knew! I knew what to do with people, like if they wanted to have a business.

CH: And you began to practice what you knew when you lived with your father?

S1: My father would not allow it.

CH: For what reason?

S1: That's why I left, he would hit me too much, they would say I was crazy.

CH: And that's why you left….OK, could you explain how…what was your relationship to San Simon in that time up until you were 22 years old.

S1: Very good, because everywhere I went I always got a job, because….

CH: of San Simon…

S1: San Simon and because I could do many things and many people would come…I got work anywhere.

CH: And you always lit candles to San Simon?

S1: Some flowers but I ???? because I had no money…and later…..well….

LONG PAUSE

CH: And when you began to feel all these things and have this knowledge, where you at one time just working in that?

S1: Over there?

CH: In the spiritual, yes.

S1: Always.

CH: Even while having the bars and all that?

S1: Yes.

CH: This all you did…

S1: I used to cure, I smoked cigars, I did everything when I had the bars, when I worked with the man too.

CH: You would smoke the cigars (puros) to divinate?

S1: No, so that the man would come home to the lady so that she might find a job, I would even go talk to an owl.

CH: A live one?

S1: No ??????? one of those ??? hit it. And so they would make a lot of money.

CH: And you don't remember who were the spirits that would come into you?

S1: I don't know anything because I was in a trance so I did not know…and I wasn't really interested either.

CH: And the V's, did they help you or teach you anything?

S1: They don't know anything.

CH: But weren't they…

S1: They know…my aunt, but she doesn't want me to know.

CH: So she didn't give you…

S1: She didn't give me anything.

CH: Could you tell me a little more about the things she would do?

S1: She would leave her husband a sleep and she would go to another man….woman, at night, at 12 at night, she would go from 'Los Planes' to a place called '???'…and so, there they have everything, that's were the cemetery is, so on the hill to get to her, my aunt says ?????? that her body gave off and some vulture like birds would gather round…lots of them, her and the lady would go around and around, they would lie face up…but one day a man passed by and ??? and threw salt on them and ??? her face,

because when they would leave there would be one controlling the body but you make a cross like an oil lamp…

CH: To do what they would do?

S1: Yes, they would tell your husband, stay here and stay here and until you get there you would wake up and they would slap them on the face…

CH: So they would leave to the cemetery…

S1: They'd come back, to do their thing…

CH: They would remain on the floor, and this man that came to spin them around and threw salt on them, who was he?

S1: My uncle, A P.

CH: And was he a witch (brujo)?

TAPE BREAKS UP

S1: No, he was…??? He was an alcoholic and a ladies man, he had many women…

CH: And so he went to spin them around.

S1: Yes, he said to himself there is that dumb witch (bruja), and he went with machete in hand, to like cut her…

CH: After having put salt on them?

S1: When…to cut her ??? salt on the face ??? cut it. So ???, and so he put some salt on them.

CH: On their face or…?

S1: He poured the salt and ???

CH: But then what happened?

S1: The animals came out and scratched his face.

CH: But the animals where the ladies, right?

S1: Yes.

CH: They were the owls?

S1: Yes, like owls, like eagles.

CH: And the scratched him?

S1: Yes.

CH: And they continued to live these women?

S1: They live. My aunt is still alive, she might be coming here, maybe I'll bring her one day, she's running around as a tourist right now.

CH: Tell her…

S1: But she is very poor…

CH: We are all poor…

S1: She runs around barefoot, but her children ??? San Francisco and I think they'll bring her this week from Guatemala.

CH: It doesn't matter.

S1: My aunt knows a lot.

CH: Yes, if she comes by here tell here we want to meet her.

S1: OK

CH: So, in Guatemala, you had some botanica or began to work…

S1: Botanicas don't exist over there, they exist here in Los Angeles not in Guatemala, over there they are called 'Candelerias' (place of candles)…not even candles from here, ??? people say go to the man who cures, go to this place, that's what they say…they don't have botanicas, they sell some oils and stuff inside the market, ??? two chickens, flowers, a cup of water, a needle…

CH: And your aunt V F, did she give console?

S1: No, she just ??? the people.

CH: And when the people had Cadelerias, did they sell products like the botanicas there?

S1: Candles (candelas), incense (incencio), black salt (sal negra), '???' (asufre)…

CH: And did you ever have one?

S1: No, never.

CH: But you would counsel at home?

S1: Yes, over there I lived in the country side, ?????????????????????????? go to him to seek help…and so ???? people have faith and they get cured, over there, there are no Botanicas, every place has 5 candles and with one candle that you ??? you cure.

CH: So, if people go to look for you they do so at your home…

S1: There are no botanicas.

CH: Your sister, where is your sister, the sister that came here when you came here.

S1: I don't have a sister.

CH: Yes, you told me.

S1: No, not here, I never said I had a sister here.

CH: Yes, in one of the videos, you said that your sister asked you if you wanted to leave from Guatemala and that she went back to Guatemala but you stayed.

S1: What?

CH: That your sister was here and asked if you wanted to come and you came…No?

S1: That's wrong.

CH: Oh?

S1: My sister no, I'm the only one here. Not my sister.

J: So, he didn't come with his sister?

S1: I've never told you that.

CH: I guess we miss understood.

S1: My sister is in Guatemala.

CH: She's always been there?

S1: No one has ever been here, only me and the children I brought.

CH: So when did you come here?

S1: 1988

CH: and how old where you?

S1: around 30…31.

CH: How did you come here?

S1: Illegally…swimming, how about you?

CH: Not me.

S1: you were born here?

CH: No, I came by plane, because at that time there was amnesty. But the rest of my family came illegally…some stayed in Mexico with random people they asked for lodging. Because they got caught and sent them back. How was your experience? How much did you pay?

S1: I paid, I mortgaged my home, 100,000 quetzales (currency of Guatemala).

CH: Did you come alone or with Wife and children?

S1: Alone.

J: We have about three minutes left on this tape, you want to just finish up these questions or does he wan to continue beyond three minutes?

CH: Do you want to continue, because we only have three minutes left on this tape…

S1: We can wait for another day.

CH: He says maybe another day, so maybe we should just conclude it.

P: Because I'd like him really to tell us his story of coming.

CH: OK, maybe next time we'll talk of how you got here.

S1: OK…Mojado! (illegally)

P: It's very important…

S1: Why?

CH: To know the person, to know who the person is. How is it they come with nothing and then they have a successful business.

S1: I came here, without home and one day I had 50 bills of 50 quetzales each and he told me to buy a home, I bought it but it was only 6 sheets of metal and there I lived and we set up 'candies' (dulces), 'corn gruel' (atole de elote), apples (manzanas), peaches (duraznos), and liquor, my wife would kill chickens and sold them at the market and I would go sell avocados and we would kill pigs and make (chicharrones) and from there I came here. I came only with one pair of pants and underwear and another pair of pants on top, and with a shirt only and my pants ripped completely, from here to here.

In Mexicali, there they left me tossed like nothing in the hotel San Carlos. ??? I used to go by there ??? I asked him ??? and he threw me water ??? and the guy that was guiding us he would laugh at us because they had food and clothes, and ??? dogs. I began to ??? he wanted to deport me because there was nobody to pick me up. ???????? from Baja California and he told me…no from Michoacan, and he asked if they had kicked me out and he asked me if I wanted to leave, I said yes and he asked if I wanted to work for him selling tacos, I said yes. And that's how I crossed over.

CH: You made enough money to cross at Tijuana…

S1: No, he crossed me over here, I was at his home for 6 months.

CH: How did you pass?

S1: With everyone else…we were about 50, a kid of about 10 years old was ahead of us. We went through the mountain, and we stayed by a river near Chula Vista, there were a lot of naked white guys bathing in it. And we were there without food and we begin washing ourselves and they only spoke English.